

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 2 and 4 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for reducing the tendency of paper to curl in [the] a drying section of a paper machine, comprising drying [the] a paper web by pressing the web against [the] heated faces of a plurality of drying cylinders in the drying section of a paper machine, [having a twin-wire draw and/or a single wire draw, and]

applying a sufficient amount of steam in a steam treatment onto the entire width of the paper web in the drying section such that tensions that have been formed or that tend to be formed in the fiber mesh are relaxed by means of heat and moisture from the steam in the area of their formation or thereafter,

applying said steam treatment to an open face of the paper web as it runs on a suction sector of a suction roll or cylinder in said drying section and in an area of said drying section where the dry solids content of the paper web is from about 70 to about 98 percent, and

promoting the penetration of said steam treatment into the paper web in a direction of the thickness of the paper web by means of suction present on said suction sector.

Claim 3, line 1, change "2" to --1--; line 2, delete "is employed".

Claim 5, line 1, change "2" to --1--.

Claim 6, line 1, change "2" to --1--.

2. (Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, further comprising arranging said drying cylinders in an upper row, arranging said suction roll or cylinder in a lower roll, applying the steam treatment to free draws of the paper web located between said upper

row and said lower row (in an area with twin-wire draw), and applying steam onto one side or onto both sides of the paper web.

02  
Sub B2  
8. (Amended) A drying section of a paper machine, comprising at least one drying section group comprising a plurality of drying cylinders for drying a paper web, said drying cylinders each having a heated surface,

a drying wire running in a meandering fashion over said drying cylinders, said drying wire pressing the paper web against said heated surfaces of said drying cylinders,

at least one steam box arranged in said drying group and comprising a counter-face which, together with a free face of the paper web, [defining] defines a contact-free steam-treatment gap in said drying group, said steam box extending substantially across an entire transverse width of the paper web,

said steam box [adapted to apply] applying steam substantially across an entire width of the paper web such that steam tensions that have been formed or that tend to be formed in the fiber mesh of the paper web are relaxed by means of heat and moisture in the area of their formation or substantially immediately thereafter, and said steam box applying steam in the run of the paper web through the drying section such that a moisture profile in a direction of thickness of the paper web is controlled and the tendency of the paper web to curl is prevented in the run of the paper web through the drying section.

Claim 16, line 1, change "9" to --8--.

Please add the following new claims:

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Sub B5  
18. A method for reducing the tendency of paper to curl in a drying section of a paper machine, comprising drying a paper web by pressing the web against heated faces of

a plurality of drying cylinders in the drying section of a paper machine,

Q3 applying a sufficient amount of steam in a steam treatment onto the entire width of the paper web in the drying section such that tensions that have been formed or that tend to be formed in the fiber mesh are relaxed by means of heat and moisture from the steam in the area of their formation or thereafter,

arranging said drying cylinders in an upper row,

arranging a suction roll or cylinder in a lower row,

applying said steam treatment to free draws of the paper web located between said upper row and said lower row, and

applying steam onto one side or onto both sides of the paper web.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising applying said steam treatment in an area of said drying section where the dry solids content of the paper web is from about 70 to about 98 percent.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising applying said steam treatment in an area of said drying section where the dry solids content of the paper web is from about 80 to about 95 percent.

21. The method of claim 18, further comprising applying said steam treatment at an end of the drying section.

Sub 36 22. A method for reducing the tendency of paper to curl in a drying section of a paper machine, comprising

drying a paper web by pressing the web against heated faces of a plurality of drying cylinders in the drying section of a paper machine,